

BCLA Diversity & Multicultural Services Committee *MINUTES*

November March 26, 2015 Burnaby Public Library

Present: Ravi Basi, , Allan Cho, Wendy Jang ,Roberta Summersgill, Alan Woo, Fereshteh Kashefi (Chair)

Regrets: Michael McCarthy, Michael Burris; Ana Rosa Blue

Highlights of the meeting

Meeting Opening

Welcome and introductions, adoption of the minutes and agenda. The committee welcomed UBC Library School student as a new member. Another UBC student Claire Richardson is also interested in joining the committee, the upcoming meeting dates will be sent to her.

Review of the minutes from previous meeting:

-Fereshteh has contacted Annette DeFaveri by email but has not met her in person yet.

-A copy of mandate statement has been sent to Michael McCarthy for inclusion in the blog and BCLA sub site, Michael was not present but It seems like the old login for editing BCLA website is not working Fereshteh will ask BCLA office about new guidelines and possible training.

Membership:

The committee is more than ever seeking new members. Sending an open invitation to interested library staff and libraries through the BCLA list was suggested. Ravi volunteered to write the invitation and send it to fk for distribution.

ESL :

An email from Port Moody Librarians suggesting a workshop around the issue of ESL advisory was circulated. The consensus was that the committee is not interested at this time and will not get involved. Fereshteh will respond to the email and suggest sharing the idea with Readers Advisory Interest Group.

Roberta is interested in of starting ESL Book clubs in BPL.

Allan informed us that UBC Learning Exchange, a community engagement initiative based in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, has been offering small scale ESL conversation clubs. Learning Exchange also provides programs like computer training and smaller conferences (on social housing, addiction etc.).

BCLA conference 2016

The committee should start working on the ideas for next year's conference and how to participate. Members are encouraged to bring their suggestions and ideas to the next meeting (June 19th)

Round table:

- Wendy has a new “job title” she is the Coordinator of Chinese Community Services
- May is the “Asian Heritage Month”, with programs organized by Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society and ExploAsian. Programs are about various Asian cultures with a focus on Persian community this year. Fereshteh is involved with facilitating some of these programs.
- Allan Cho is the webmaster for the ExplorAsian web site. Information about related programs in our libraries during the month of May can be sent to Allan for posting.
- North Vancouver Museum and Archives and VPL are working on special arrangements to showcase an exhibition called “Sharing our Stories Preserving Multicultural Histories on the North Shore “ in VPL Central in May.
- Community conversations with newcomers are happening in various North Shore Libraries (NVCL, NVDPL and WVML) so far 12 sessions has been organized.
- Ravi reported that her (SPL’s) Human Library program has been successful and very popular.
- A new intake of Library Champions is jointly organized by NVCL and NVDP in April.

Next meeting dates in 2015: Thursdays June 18th, September 17th and November 19th.

Location : BPL (Metrotown Branch, 3rd floor Board Room).